

dynamics of the local economy and the needs of the region. Mr. Rankins served on the Board of Supervisors since 1990 and served as its president. His tenure was characterized by consistent focus on retaining and recruiting new businesses and industries to the area. During his career, Al Rankins has also been a member of the Mississippi Water Management Advisory Board and the Allied Enterprise Advisory Board. On the Delta Council, he served as the longtime chairman of the Council's Flood Control Committee and as chairman of the Development Department Board of Directors.

Prior to serving in these important jobs, Al Rankins worked almost 21 years as a police officer for the city of Greenville, retiring in 1990 as deputy chief. He also served his country honorably during a tour of duty in Vietnam with the U.S. Air Force.

Related to his career as a civic leader and business owner, Al Rankins has received many accolades and honors, including the Lifetime Achievement Award for Civil Service to the Community, the Outstanding Citizen Achievement Award, and the Outstanding Service to the Community Award. These awards are examples of the recognition extended to Mr. Rankins for his public service and community volunteer contributions to the Mississippi Delta Region.

Al Rankins and his wife Mary are a credit to my great State. In conjunction with the end of his long service with the Washington County Board of Supervisors, I join many Mississippians in commending Alfred Rankins, Sr., for his dedication and service to the people of Mississippi.●

REMEMBERING BRUNO BENNA

● Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to a Nevadan who spent his life working to strengthen his local community and enrich the lives of its residents. After a courageous 9-year battle with cancer, Bruno Benna passed on April 1, 2012. Our State has lost a selfless and giving Nevadan. My thoughts and prayers continue to be with his family.

From starting a small concrete company that would later become a staple in Reno to his patronage for the fine arts, Bruno was involved in nearly every facet of Northern Nevada's community. In 1958, he co-founded C.B. Concrete Company, which literally laid the foundations for modern Reno. For the next 50 years, Bruno contributed to the construction of Reno's major infrastructure projects. Generations of Reno residents have become familiar with C. B. Concrete Company's iconic yellow trucks emblazoned with the bumble bee logo.

C. B. Concrete Company exemplifies the vital role small businesses play in both our economy and local community. As the backbone of our economy, they must continue to remain vibrant and healthy in order to create jobs at a

time when Nevadans need them the most. I am saddened that Reno has lost such a passionate entrepreneur who was responsible for employing hundreds of Nevadans. Northern Nevada was fortunate to have such a talented businessman who was continuously striving to improve the business community while serving on the Reno Chamber of Commerce Board, the U.S. Interstate Commerce Commission, and as an advisor to the U.S. Small Business Administration.

In 1997, Bruno and his wife, Edna, started the Benna Family Foundation to give back to their community. Through the foundation, the couple were avid supporters of the University of Nevada, the Nevada Discovery Museum, the Nevada Opera, the Nevada Art Museum, and the Reno Little Theater. In 2002, Governor Kenny Guinn awarded the Bennas with the Governor's Arts Award for their decades of service for arts in Northern Nevada.

Bruno's extensive philanthropic endeavors and generous contributions to our State continue to be inspiring to those within the Reno and larger northern Nevada community. I am both grateful for and humbled by his commitment to the Silver State. I ask my colleagues to join me today in remembering the life of a great Nevadan.●

RECOGNIZING WEST BRANCH HERITAGE TIMBER, LLC

● Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, my home State of Maine, with its vast acres of trees, has traditionally been a hub for the lumber industry since the advent of wood pulp in paper making. In recent years, the lumber industry has suffered due to the economic downturn, and the resulting decline in the housing market has reduced the need for wood products to build homes such as hardwood flooring and cabinet construction. Despite this, there are companies that persevere in the face of such hardships, confronting economic challenges with innovation and creativity. Today, I rise to commend and recognize one such company, West Branch Heritage Timber, for helping to revive the lumber industry while creating a beautiful and artistic product inscribed with Maine's rich history.

Since 2010, West Branch Heritage Timber located in Millinocket, ME, has harvested 20,000 tons of wood from Quakish Lake—part of the Penobscot River system—which became a repository for thousands of tons of lost timber cut by river-driving loggers over a century ago. The extensive wood inventory remained preserved under the water for over 100 years, until coowners Steve Saunders and Tom Shafer developed an idea to retrieve the unique and magnificent lumber. To put it simply, these two innovators have been "fishing" this timber from the bottom of the lake for the commercial value it holds today.

Currently, West Branch Heritage Timber is in the process of reclaiming

an estimated 1 million cord of timber at the bottom of the West Branch of the Penobscot River, making it the largest timber reclamation project ever conducted in New England. The quality of their product has not gone unnoticed as this small firm was recently selected by another local business, Shaw & Tenney of Orono, as the primary wood supplier for the paddles they are producing for L.L. Bean's 100-year anniversary. Lake wood contains aesthetically impressive designs which develop and evolve as minerals from the lake's water seeps deep into the wood over many years, creating rich earth tones. Shaw & Tenney saw an opportunity to utilize this niche-commodity offered by West Branch Heritage Timber to demonstrate the beauty of Maine in L.L. Bean's commemorative paddles.

However, the artistic preservation of history is only one purpose that the wood of Quakish Lake serves. Steve hopes that the business will soon obtain a paper mill contract as West Branch would be able to provide pulping wood at a substantially less cost than competitors. Steve has attested to the feasibility and value of such a venture by estimating the potential to produce 40,000 tons of wood annually for the next 20 years. While the company currently employs nine full-time employees, obtaining a pulp contract would allow for expansion and job creation.

The ingenuity and creativity of the West Branch Heritage Timber team embodies the entrepreneurial spirit of our country's history and serves as an exemplary small business that so ardently comprises the backbone of the American economy. I am proud to extend my congratulations to Steve and Tom, as well as everyone at West Branch Heritage Timber, for their hard work in providing a product that is both beautiful and vital to the resurgence of Maine's lumber industry.●

2012 NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL STRATEGY—PM 46

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

To the Congress of the United States:

I am pleased to transmit the 2012 *National Drug Control Strategy*, which follows through on the commitment made by my Administration to chart a new course in our efforts to reduce illicit drug use and its consequences in the United States. The balanced approach outlined in the Administration's inaugural *National Drug Control Strategy* has yielded significant results, which are detailed in the following pages.

Our Nation still faces serious drug-related challenges, however. Too many Americans need treatment for substance use disorders but do not receive

it. Prescription drug abuse continues to claim American lives, and those who take drugs and drive threaten safety on our Nation's roadways. Young people's perceptions of the risks of drug use have declined over the past decade, and research suggests that this often predicts future increases in drug use. There is still much left to do to reform our justice system and break the cycle of drug use and crime. Our commitment to work with partner nations must remain steadfast to reduce drug production, trafficking, and related transnational threats.

Based upon the progress we have achieved over the past three years, I am confident we can address these challenges through concerted action along the entire spectrum of prevention, early intervention, treatment, recovery support, criminal justice reform, law enforcement, and international cooperation. However, we must match our commitment with the appropriate resources.

Illicit drug use in America contributed to an estimated \$193 billion in crime, health, and lost productivity costs in 2007, the year for which the most recent estimate is available. In today's challenging economic environment, we cannot afford such a drain on our economy and public resources. While difficult budget decisions must be made at all levels of government, we must ensure continued support for policies and programs that reduce drug use and its enormous costs to American society. In doing so, we will not only strengthen our economy but also sustain the national character and spirit that has made the United States a world leader.

I look forward to continuing to work with the Congress and Federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial leaders, international partners, and the American people in this important endeavor.

BARACK OBAMA.

THE WHITE HOUSE, April 19, 2012.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:37 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2453. An act to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of Mark Twain.

H.R. 4348. An act to provide an extension of Federal-aid highway, highway safety, motor carrier safety, transit, and other programs funded out of the Highway Trust Fund pending enactment of a multiyear law reauthorizing such programs, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 2453. An act to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of Mark Twain; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

MEASURE DISCHARGED

The following joint resolution was discharged by petition, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 802(c), and placed on the calendar:

S.J. Res. 36. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the National Labor Relations Board relating to representation election procedures.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 2327. A bill to prohibit direct foreign assistance to the Government of Egypt until the President makes certain certifications related to treatment of nongovernmental organization workers, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-5741. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Asian Longhorned Beetle; Additions to Quarantined Areas in Massachusetts" (Docket No. APHIS-2010-0128) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 18, 2012; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5742. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Importation of Clementines From Spain; Amendment to Inspection Provisions" (Docket No. APHIS-2010-0036) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 18, 2012; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5743. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Importation of Pomegranates From Chile Under a Systems Approach" (Docket No. APHIS-2010-0024) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 18, 2012; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5744. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Importation of Fresh Pitaya Fruit From Central America Into the Continental United States" (Docket No. APHIS-2010-0113) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 18, 2012; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5745. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Guidance Under Sections 642 and 643 (Income Ordering Rules)" ((RIN1545-BH66) (TD 9582)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 16, 2012; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5746. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch,

Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Guidance Under Section 267(f); Deferral of Loss on Transactions Between Members of a Controlled Group" ((RIN1545-BI92) (TD 9583)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 16, 2012; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5747. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed amendment to a manufacturing license agreement for the manufacture of significant military equipment abroad and the export of defense articles, including, technical data, and defense services to Malaysia for the assembly, test and production of the Colt M4 carbine in the amount of \$50,000,000 or more; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5748. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 19-343 "Tenant Security Deposits Clarification Amendment Act of 2012"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5749. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 19-344 "South Capitol Street Memorial Amendment Act of 2012"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5750. A communication from the Director of the Regulation Policy and Management Office of the General Counsel, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Rules Governing Hearings Before the Agency of Original Jurisdiction and the Board of Veterans' Appeals; Repeal of Prior Rule Change" (RIN2900-AO43) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 18, 2012; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-5751. A communication from the Director of the Regulation Policy and Management Office of the General Counsel, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Payment or Reimbursement for Emergency Services for Nonservice-Connected Conditions in Non-VA Facilities" (RIN2900-AN86) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 18, 2012; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-5752. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense (Reserve Affairs), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a proposed change by the Navy Reserve to the Fiscal Year 2011 National Guard and Reserve Equipment Appropriation (NGREA) procurement; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5753. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Legislative Affairs), transmitting legislative proposals and accompanying reports relative to the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5754. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Karnal Bunt; Regulated Areas in California" (Docket No. APHIS-2011-0074) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 17, 2012; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5755. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to